

REDISCOVERY OF *CYPERUS CEPHALANTHUS* (CYPERACEAE) IN TEXAS

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Brown and Elsik (2002) reported collections of *Cyperus cephalanthus* Torr. & Hook. from a small coastal prairie remnant in Harris County, apparently the first record in Texas since the type specimen was collected near Galveston Bay (Torrey 1836; Carter and McInnis 1993). Following their report, the site was excavated and formed into a detention basin. Since the type location has never been relocated and presumed destroyed, the only known extant population of *C. cephalanthus* in Texas at the time was extirpated. Recently, during floristic surveys of the Nash Prairie in Brazoria County, a flourishing population of *C. cephalanthus* comprising over 50 individuals was discovered. Plants were growing in saturated, fine sandy loam soils in the nearly level fringes of a deep prairie depression. The Nash Prairie has been managed for decades by routine mowing, haying, and burning, preventing the encroachment of *Sapium sebiferum* (L.) Roxb. into these seasonal wetlands, the preferred habitat for *C. cephalanthus*.

Tucker et al. (2003) suggested that *Cyperus cephalanthus* is naturalized in the United States, largely based on its uncertain relationship with *C. laetus* Presl., a similar South American species. However, Carter and McInnis (1993) provide detailed ecological, biological, and historical information suggesting *C. cephalanthus* is native to the coastal prairies of Texas and Louisiana. Although its nativity may remain unknown, *Cyperus cephalanthus*, like *C. drummondii* Torr. & Hook., is a reliable indicator of relatively undisturbed coastal prairie remnants in Texas and Louisiana (Carter and McInnis 1993; Carter et al. 1999; Grace et al. 2000; Rosen 2004).

Voucher specimen: U.S.A. TEXAS. Brazoria Co.: Nash Ranch, 275-acre hay meadow W of CR 25, about 8.7 miles N of its intersection with Hwy. 35 in West Columbia, locally common in seasonally wet fringes of deep prairie depression with *Amsonia repens* Shinnery, *Boltonia diffusa* Ell., *Carex festucacea* Schkuhr ex Willd., *C. longii* Mack., *C. triangularis* J. Böck., *Cyperus drummondii* Torr. & Hook., *C. haspan* L., *C. pseudovegetus* Steud. var. *pseudovegetus*, *Diodia virginiana* L., *Eleocharis palustris* (L.) Röm. & Schult., *Hydrolea ovata* Nutt. ex Choisy, *Hymenocallis liriosme* (Raf.) Shinnery, *Juncus coriaceous* Mack., *J. nodatus* Coville, *Leersia hexandra* Sw., *Ludwigia glandulosa* Walter, *Panicum hians* Ell., *Panicum* subg. *Dichanthelium* spp., *P. virgatum* L., *Paspalum plicatulum* Michx. var. *plicatulum*, *Physostegia intermedia* (Nutt.) Engelm. & A. Gray, *Polygonum hydropiperoides* Michx., *Rhynchospora caduca* Elliott, *R. corniculata* (Lam.) A. Gray, *Rudbeckia nitida* Nutt. var. *texana* Perdue, *Schizachyrium scoparium* (Michx.) Nash var. *scoparium*, *Tridens strictus* (Nutt.) Nash, and *Vernonia missurica* Raf., 21 May 2004, Rosen and Christoffersen 2950 (BRIT, MICH, VSC, TEX).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful to Peter Conaty and John Phillips for granting access to the Nash Prairie. We thank Richard Carter and Charles Bryson for critical review of this manuscript.

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